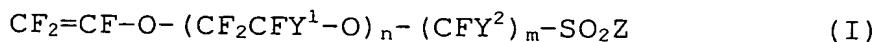


## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a method of producing the fluoropolymer according to any one of Claims 5 1 to 3, by subjecting a fluoropolymer precursor containing acid/acid salt groups and having  $-CF_2COOX$  groups at polymer chain terminals, in the formula X represents H,  $NR^{11}R^{12}R^{13}R^{14}$  or  $M^4_{1/L}$ ;  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  are the same or different and each represents H or an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 10 carbon atoms and  $M^4$  represents a metal having a valence of L, said metal having a valence of L being a metal belonging to the group 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 12 or 13 of the long-form periodic table, to heat treatment for the conversion of said  $-CF_2COOX$  groups to  $-CF_2H$  groups, X being as defined 15 above,

wherein said fluoropolymer precursor is one obtained by polymerizing a perhalovinyl ether derivative represented by the general formula (I):



20 wherein  $Y^1$  represents F, Cl or a perfluoroalkyl group, n represents an integer of 0 to 3, the n atoms/groups of  $Y^1$  are the same or different,  $Y^2$  represents F or Cl, m represents an integer of 1 to 5, the m atoms of  $Y^2$  are the same or different and Z represents F, Cl, Br, I,  $-OM^5_{1/L}$  or 25  $-ONR^{15}R^{16}R^{17}R^{18}$ ;  $M^5$  represents a metal having a valence of L and the metal having a valence of L is as defined above, and  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{17}$  and  $R^{18}$  are the same or different and each represents H or an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

30 when the group  $-SO_2Z$  in the general formula (I) is not said acid/acid salt group but is a group convertible to such acid/acid salt group, said fluoropolymer precursor is one subjected to a conversion treatment, after the above-mentioned polymerization, for the conversion of said group 35  $-SO_2Z$  to the above-mentioned acid/acid salt group, and

said heat treatment comprises heating said fluoropolymer precursor at 120 to 400°C.